

In the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) A burner assembly for burning a fuel gas from a gas source, the burner assembly being connectable to a base with a gas inlet aperture therein, comprising:

a burner body having upper and lower portions, the lower portion of the burner body sealably coupleable to the base and having first and second recessed gas distribution chamber portions formed therein, the upper portion of the burner body having a contoured surface with a plurality of integral peaks and valleys, the contoured surface being shaped to simulate a generally planar portion with a plurality of simulated coal members arranged in a simulated ember bed, the burner body having gas distribution apertures extending from the lower portion to the contoured surface, a first set of the gas distribution apertures extending through the burner body to the first recessed gas distribution chamber portion, and a second set of distribution apertures extending through the burner body to the second recessed gas distribution chamber portion, the gas distribution apertures being positioned to direct a flow of the fuel gas to the contoured upper surface for ignition; and

a simulated log supported adjacent to the simulated ember bed.

47. (New) The burner assembly of claim 46 wherein the burner body is constructed of a material that glows at selected color variations in the simulated coal members to simulate a burning and glowing coal ember bed in the base of a fire when the fuel gas is ignited adjacent to the contoured surface.

48. (New) The burner assembly of claim 46 wherein the burner body is made of a ceramic-based material.

49. (New) The burner assembly of claim 46 wherein the gas apertures have open upper ends positioned in a plurality of different planes, so the open upper ends are not co-planar.

50. (New) A burner assembly for burning a fuel gas from a gas source, comprising:

a base;

a non-metallic burner body having a lower portion sealably coupled to the base to form a recessed interior gas distribution chamber configured to receive fuel gas therein from the gas source, the upper portion of the burner body having a contoured surface with a plurality of integral peaks and valleys shaped as simulated coal members, and the contoured surface forming a simulated-log-support surface, the upper portion of the burner body having gas distribution apertures extending from the interior gas distribution chamber to the contoured surface, the gas distribution apertures having different heights and being positioned to direct the fuel gas to the contoured surface for ignition, the burner body being constructed of a material that glows at selected color variations in the simulated coal members to simulate a burning and glowing coal ember bed in the base of a fire when the fuel gas is ignited adjacent to the contoured surface; and

a simulated log supported by the simulated log-support surface adjacent to the simulated coal members.

51. (New) The burner assembly of claim 50 wherein the burner body is constructed of a ceramic-based material.

52. (New) The burner assembly of claim 50 wherein the burner body is constructed of compressed vermiculite.

53. (New) The burner assembly of claim 50 wherein the burner body includes a combustion air hole extending therethrough, the combustion air hole positioned to be out of fluid communication with the gas distribution chamber when the burner pan is connected to the burner body.

54. (New) The burner assembly of claim 50 wherein the interior gas distribution chamber has first and second chamber portions recessed from the base, the first chamber portion being larger than the second chamber portion and a greater number of gas distribution apertures communicate with the first chamber portion than the number of gas distribution apertures in communication with the second chamber portion.

55. (New) A burner assembly for burning a fuel gas, comprising:

a burner pan;

a spacer; and

a burner body having upper and lower portions, the lower portion of the burner body sealably coupled to the burner pan, the lower portion of the burner body being supported apart from the burner pan by the spacer forming an interior gas distribution chamber between the burner pan and the burner body, the interior gas distribution chamber positioned to receive a flow of fuel gas therein, the upper portion of the burner body having a contoured surface forming simulated coal members, the upper portion of the burner body having a plurality of gas distribution apertures extending from the interior gas distribution chamber to the contoured surface, the plurality of gas distribution apertures being positioned to direct a flow of the fuel gas from the interior gas distribution chamber to the contoured surface for ignition, the burner body being constructed of a material that glows at

selected color variations in the simulated coal members to simulate a burning and glowing coal ember bed in the base of a fire when the fuel gas is ignited adjacent to the contoured surface.

56. (New) The burner assembly of claim 55 wherein the interior gas distribution chamber has a plurality of chamber portions to maintain a desired fuel gas pressure within the interior gas distribution chamber.

57. (New) The burner assembly of claim 55 wherein the burner pan includes a base spaced apart from the burner body and the spacer is a distribution fence projecting from the base, the lower portion of the burner body has a channel that receives a portion of the distribution fence, the distribution fence dividing the interior gas distribution chamber into separate chamber portions for distribution of the fuel gas to selected ones of the gas distribution apertures.

58. (New) The burner assembly of claim 55 wherein the plurality of gas distribution apertures have open upper ends positioned in a plurality of different planes so the open upper ends are not co-planar.

59. (New) The burner assembly of claim 55 wherein a selected group of the plurality of gas distribution apertures are concentrated relative to each other to provide a selected flame shape when the fuel gas flowing through the concentrated group of gas distribution apertures is ignited adjacent to the upper portion of the burner body.

60. (New) The burner assembly of claim 55 wherein the burner body includes a combustion air hole extending therethrough, the combustion air hole being out of fluid communication with the interior gas distribution chamber.

61. (New) The burner assembly of claim 55 wherein the contoured surface provides a non-uniform surface that provides simulated coal portions of different sizes and heights.

62. (New) The burner assembly of claim 55 wherein the upper portion of the burner body has a simulated-log-support surface positioned to removably receive one or more simulated logs thereon.

63. (New) The burner assembly of claim 55 wherein the burner body is constructed of a ceramic-based material.

64. (New) A burner assembly for burning a fuel gas from a gas source, comprising:

a base;

a spacer adjacent to the base;

a burner body having upper and lower portions, the burner body being coupled to the spacer with the lower portion of the burner body being spaced apart from the base of the burner pan by the spacer to form an interior gas distribution chamber therebetween and configured to receive a flow of fuel gas from the gas source, the lower portion of the burner body having a flat undersurface portion generally parallel to the base of the burner pan, the lower portion having a recessed underportion spaced apart from the burner pan's base and recessed from the burner body's flat undersurface portion, the recessed underportion defining a portion of the gas distribution chamber, the upper portion of the burner body having a contoured surface forming simulated burning members, the burner body having a plurality of gas distribution apertures extending therethrough from the lower portion to the contoured surface of the upper portion, at least the upper portion of the burner body being constructed of a material

that glows at selected color variations when the fuel gas is ignited adjacent to the contoured surface.

65. (New) The burner assembly of claim 64 wherein the plurality of gas distribution apertures have open upper ends positioned in a plurality of different planes.

66. (New) The burner assembly of claim 64 wherein a selected group of the plurality of gas distribution apertures are concentrated relative to each other to provide a selected flame shape when the fuel gas flowing through the concentrated group of gas distribution apertures is ignited adjacent to the upper portion of the burner body.

67. (New) The burner assembly of claim 64 wherein the gas distribution chamber has a first recessed chamber portion and a second recessed chamber portion, the burner body having a transition portion adjacent to the first and second recessed chamber portions.

68. (New) The burner assembly of claim 64 wherein the burner body is constructed of a ceramic-based material.

69. (New) The burner assembly of claim 64, further comprising a plurality of simulated logs adjustably positioned adjacent to the simulated burning members.

70. (New) A burner assembly for burning a fuel gas from a gas source, comprising:

a base;

a burner body having upper and lower portions, the burner body being spaced apart from the base forming a sealed interior gas distribution chamber therebetween, the interior gas distribution chamber having first and second chamber portions in fluid communication with each other and positioned to receive the fuel gas therein, gas flow distribution surfaces

extending between the first and second chamber portions and configured to direct at least a portion of the fuel gas from the first chamber portion to the second chamber portion, the upper portion of the burner body having a contoured surface with a plurality of integral peaks and valleys the burner body having a plurality of gas distribution apertures extending therethrough from the lower portion to the contoured surface of the upper portion, the plurality of gas distribution apertures being positioned to direct a flow of the fuel gas to the contoured surface of the upper portion of the burner body for ignition, at least a portion of the upper surface of the burner body being constructed of a non-metallic material that glows at selected color variations when the fuel gas is ignited adjacent to the contoured surface.

71. (New) The burner assembly of claim 70 wherein the peaks and valleys in the contoured surface is shaped to form a plurality of simulated coal members.

72. (New) The burner assembly of claim 70 wherein distribution surfaces are distribution fences extending between the lower portion of the burner body and the base.

73. (New) A burner assembly for burning a fuel gas from a gas source, comprising:

a base with a fuel gas inlet; and

a burner body having upper and lower portions, the lower portion of the burner body being sealably coupled to the base, a gas distribution chamber between the lower portion of the burner body and the base, the gas distribution chamber positioned to receive a flow of fuel gas therein from the fuel gas inlet, the lower portion of the burner body having a flat first undersurface portion spaced apart from the base and a second undersurface spaced apart from the base and recessed from the first

undersurface portion, the second undersurface portion defining a portion of the gas distribution chamber, the upper portion of the burner body having a contoured surface simulating coal members and having a plurality of gas distribution apertures extending from the interior gas distribution chamber to the contoured surface, the burner body being constructed of a material that glows at selected color variations when the fuel gas is ignited.

74. (New) The burner assembly of claim 73 wherein the first and second underportions are substantially parallel to the base.

75. (New) The burner assembly of claim 73 wherein the interior gas distribution chamber has a gas flow orifice positioned between a first chamber portion and a second chamber portion.

76. (New) The burner assembly of claim 73, further comprising a plurality of distribution fences extending between the burner body and the distribution fences dividing the interior gas distribution chamber into separate chamber portions.

77. (New) The burner assembly of claim 73 wherein the interior gas distribution chamber has a plurality of chamber portions to maintain a desired fuel gas pressure within the interior gas distribution chamber.

78. (New) The burner assembly of claim 73 wherein the burner body includes a combustion air hole extending therethrough, the combustion air hole being out of fluid communication with the interior gas distribution chamber.

79. (New) The burner assembly of claim 73, further comprising a spacer between the burner pan and the burner body.

80. (New) The burner assembly of claim 73 wherein the burner body is constructed of a ceramic-based material.

81. (New) A burner assembly for burning a fuel gas from a gas source, comprising:

a base coupled to a fuel gas inlet;

a burner body having upper and lower portions, the lower portion of the burner body being sealably coupled to the base to form an interior gas distribution chamber therebetween, the lower portion of the burner body having a first chamber portion and a second chamber portion configured to allow the flow of fuel gas to move from the first chamber portion to the second chamber portion, the upper portion of the burner body having a contoured surface with a plurality of peaks and valleys to form a plurality of simulated coal members, a portion of the contoured surface forming a simulated-log support portion to support one or more simulated logs adjacent to the simulated coal members, the burner body having a plurality of gas distribution apertures extending therethrough from the lower portion to the contoured surface of the upper portion, the plurality of gas distribution apertures being positioned to direct a flow of the fuel gas to the contoured surface of the upper portion of the burner body for ignition, the burner body being constructed of a material that glows at selected color variations in the simulated coal members when the fuel gas is ignited adjacent to the contoured surface.

82. (New) The burner assembly of claim 81, further comprising a spacer between the lower portion of the burner body and the base.

83. (New) The burner assembly of claim 81 wherein the plurality of gas distribution apertures have open upper ends positioned in a plurality of different planes,

so the open upper ends are not co-planar thereby controlling the distribution of the fuel gas at the contoured surface of the upper portion of the burner body.

84. (New) The burner assembly of claim 81 wherein a selected group of the plurality of gas distribution apertures are concentrated relative to each other to provide a selected flame shape when the fuel gas flowing through the concentrated group of gas distribution apertures is ignited adjacent to the upper portion of the burner body.

85. (New) The burner assembly of claim 81 wherein the plurality of gas apertures have substantially the same height.

86. (New) The burner assembly of claim 81 wherein the burner body is constructed of a ceramic-based material.